

The location of the ancient Phoenician town of Qartīm, modern Qertay

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The ancient Phoenician town of Qartīm is located within the limits of modern Qertay, a farm located in the territory of the village of Choueifat, to the west of it and to the north of Khaldeh. The name *Qertay* is found on the map at a latitude of 33° 48' 25" and a longitude of 35° 29' 30" (*Map of Lebanon, 1/20000, Aaley, leaf J-4*). Parts of the airport of Beirut are situated on this farm. The site of the ancient town is the same as the site called Kobbet Choueifat by Roger Saidah and excavated by him. Saidah erroneously considered this site as part of the territory of Khaldeh, which is situated further south.

In the inscriptions of King Esarhaddon, it is called URU qar-ti-im-me. The final vowel /e/ in Qartime is superfluous. The Phoenician name is *qartīm*, which may mean “*the villages or the towns*”. In Syriac, *qartīm* became *qartīn*, then *qartē*, which became *qartayh* قرتيه in Arabic.

Between 680 and 673 BC, King Esarhaddon conquered Qartīm with other towns in the surrounding of Sidon, as related in the following inscription:

- 1, URU É ṁṣu-pu-ri URU sik-ku-ú URU gi-i'
- 2, URU in-im-me URU ḥi-il-du-u-a
- 3, URU qar-ti-im-me URU bi-i'-ru-u URU ki-il-me-e
- 4, URU bi-ti-ru-me URU sa-gu-u URU am-pa

5, URU É gi-si-me-ia URU bi-ir-gi-i'

6, URU ga-am-bu-lu URU da-la-im-me URU i-si-ḫi-im-me

7, URU.MEŠ-ni ša li-me-et URU ši-du-un-ni

8, a-šar ri-i-ti u maš-qí-ti É tuk-la-a-ti-šú

9, ša ina tu-kul-ti ^daš-šur EN-ia ik-šu-da

Bit Supuri, Siku, Gi', Inime, Ḫilduwa, Qartime, Bi'ru, Kilme, Bitirume, Sagu, Ampa, Bit Gisimeya, Birgi', Gambulu, Dala'ime, Isiḫime, towns in the surrounding of Sidon, a land of pasturing and watering, a place of his support, which I conquered with the support of Asur my lord.

(Leichty, *The Royal Inscriptions*, 1 iii 1-9)

The order of the names (from Bit Supuri to Ampa) correspond to the modern order:

old names	modern names
Bit Supuri	Basfour
Siku	?
Gi'	Jiyeh
Inime	Naameh
Ḫilduwa	Khaldeh
Qartime	Qertay
Bi'ru	Beirut
Kilme	?
Bitirume	Batroun
Sagu	Chekka
Ampa	Anfeh

Like Qertay, Qartīm is situated between Beirut and Khaldeh. Furthermore, all these towns are situated on the coast, like Qertay. These are sufficient proofs that Qartīm is modern-day Qertay.

During the 13th, 14th and 15th century, Qertay is mentioned as قرطيه and قرتيه in documents cited by emir Salih ibn Yahya.¹

During the 16th century AD, Qertay is mentioned as the farm of Qurtayh مزرعه قورتيه, situated near Choueifat, in the nahiye of Gharb, in Ottoman census registers.²

In 1574, the farm of Qertay³ مزرعة قرتيه was an inalienable possession of vizier Lala Mustafa Pasha.⁴ Its borders were the following:

1, South: the farm of Khaldeh, separated from it by the 'Atshan River نهر عطشان.

2, East: the farms of Yahoudieh اليهودية and Nasraniyeh النصرانية, separated from it by the threshing areas.

3, North: the village of Burj البرج, separated from it by a chain of stones then by the road that goes to the coast.⁵

4, West: the sea.

¹ Salih b. Yahya, *Tarih Bayrut*, pp. 55, 75, 87, 88, 143, 168, 201.

² *Tapu Tahrir Defteri* 430, p. 294. *Tapu Tahrir Defteri* 401, p. 446. *Tapu Tahrir Defteri* 383, p. 326. *Tapu Tahrir Defteri* 543, p. 336.

³ Wrongly written قرتية by the editor.

⁴ *Kitab waqf al wazir Lala Mustafa Pasha*, p. 87.

⁵ Now Borj el Barajneh.

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Map of Lebanon, 1/20000, Aaley, leaf J-4.

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